

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Heather Wilson  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1160 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1160

Dear Secretary Wilson:

As Members of Congress charged with conducting oversight of both our armed forces and our law enforcement, we are dumbfounded to hear that the Air Force failed to report the alleged Sutherland Springs, Texas, shooter's criminal history to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), as required under Department of Defense Regulation 5505.11.

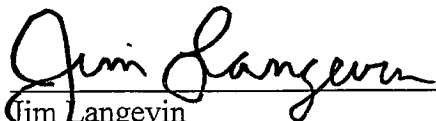
Had the Air Force followed policy and procedures by submitting the required data to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), this senseless tragedy in which 26 innocent lives were taken may have been avoided. This individual would have been identified during a required check of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and would not have been legally permitted to purchase a firearm.

We are encouraged that the Air Force will conduct a review of this case as well as of additional records to ensure reporting accuracy, but this is not enough. As such, we expect an update following this review and request responses to the following questions:

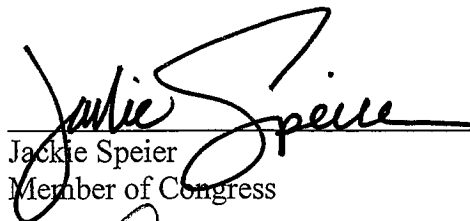
1. Why did the Air Force fail to provide the alleged shooter's criminal history data to the FBI? Was this failure to provide required information to the NCIC an isolated incident or is there a systemic problem?
2. Who within the Air Force is responsible for facilitating such data transfers? How robust is their training and education on these matters, and how frequently do they conduct this type of tasking?
3. During review of this case, did the Air Force find additional records that were not properly transmitted? If so, how many, and have these deficiencies been remediated?
4. How does the Air Force intend to more properly align its data reporting processes with DOD requirements moving forward? What steps is the Air Force taking to ensure this will not be repeated?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. We hope that moving forward, senseless tragedies such as the violence that took place in Texas can be prevented.

Sincerely,



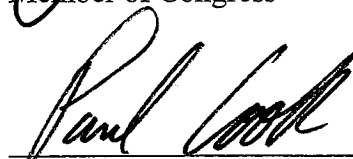
Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress



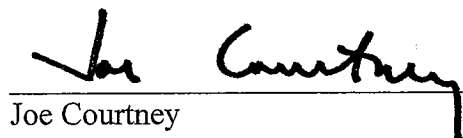
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



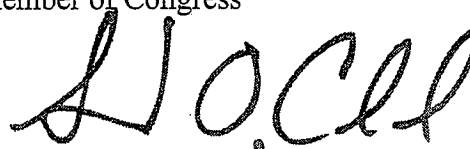
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



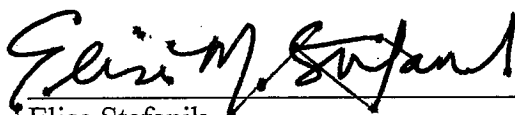
Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



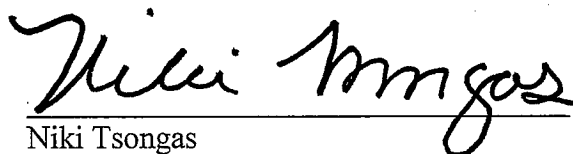
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



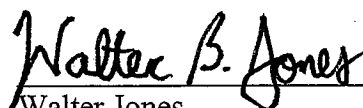
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



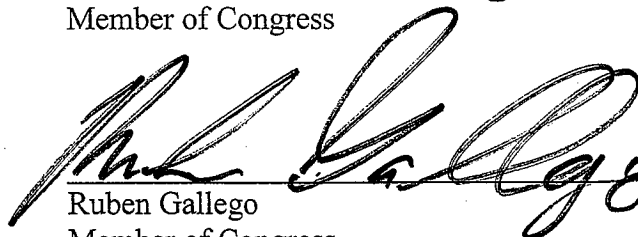
Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



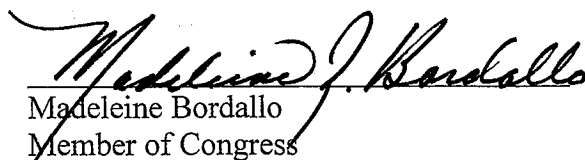
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



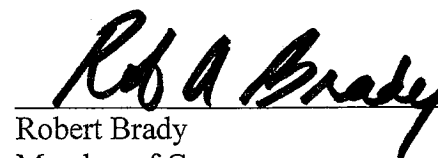
Walter Jones  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



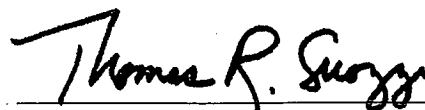
Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress

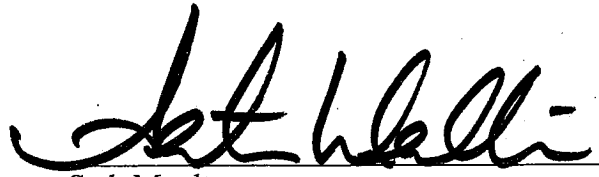


Thomas Suozzi  
Member of Congress



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Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



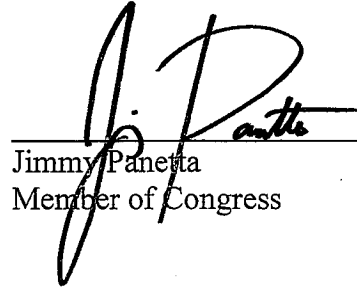
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



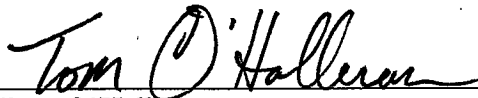
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



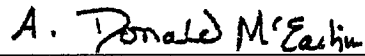
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



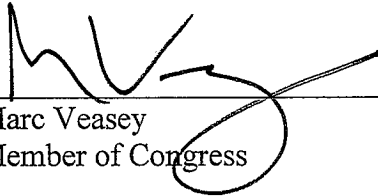
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Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



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Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress